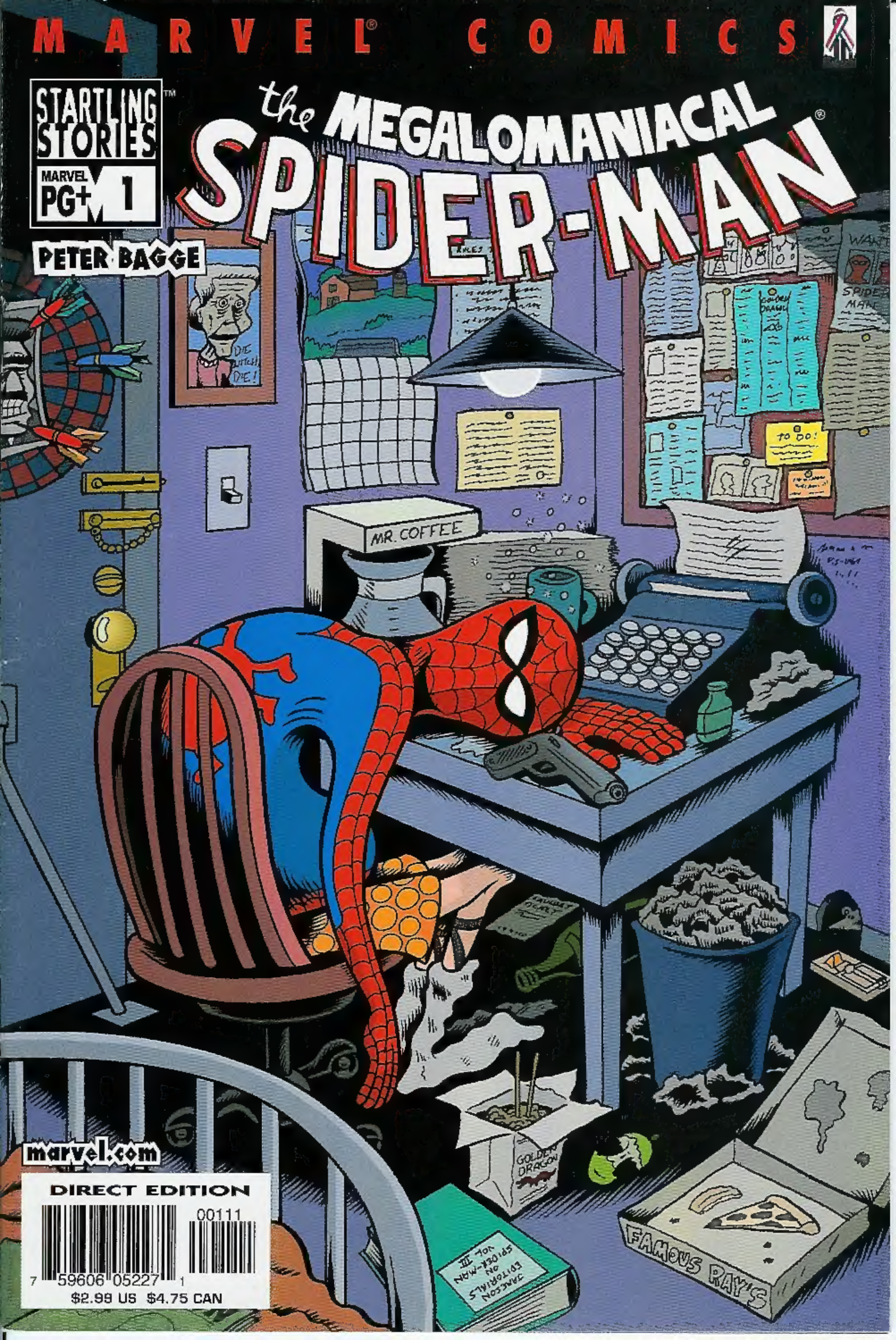
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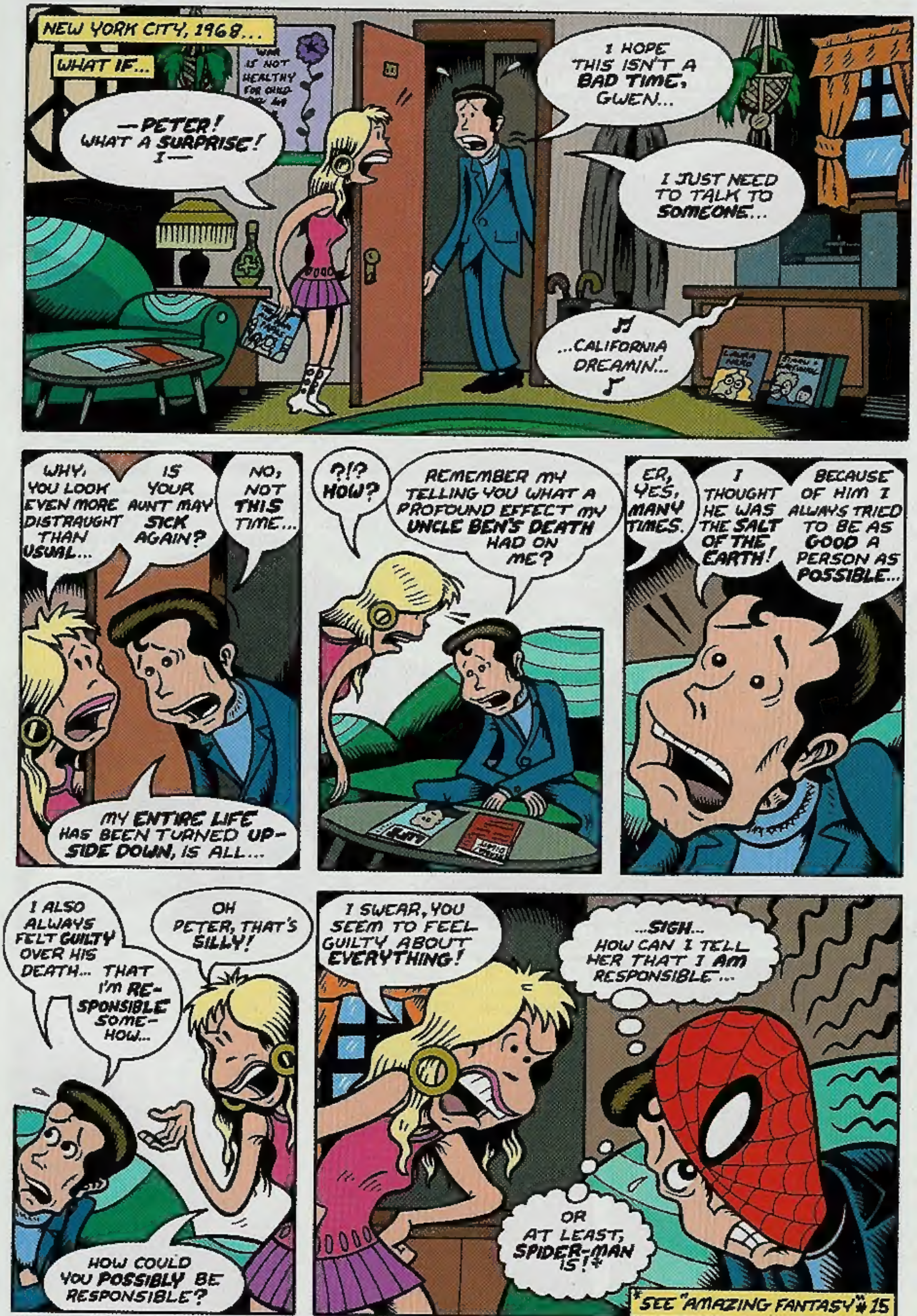

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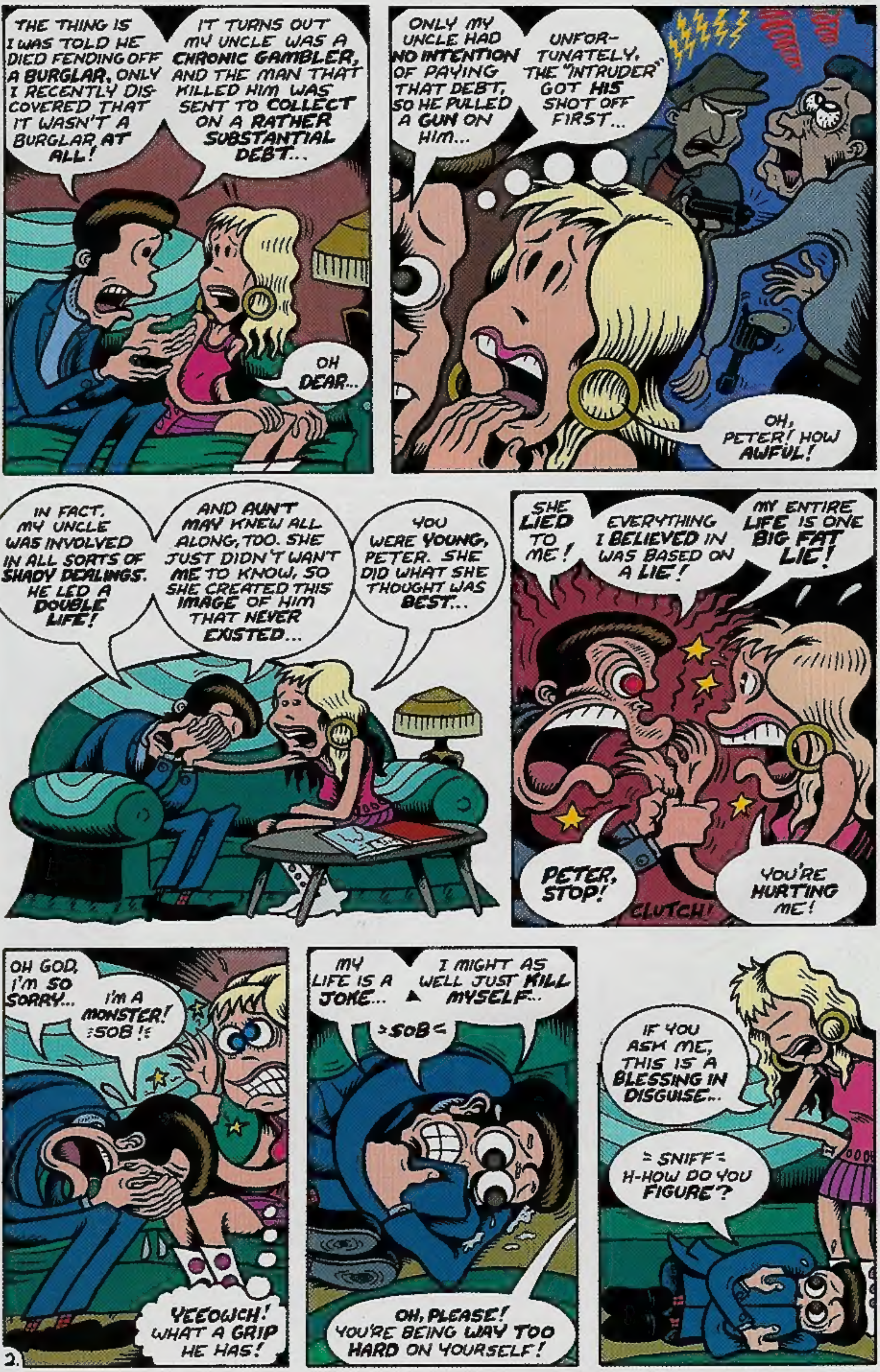
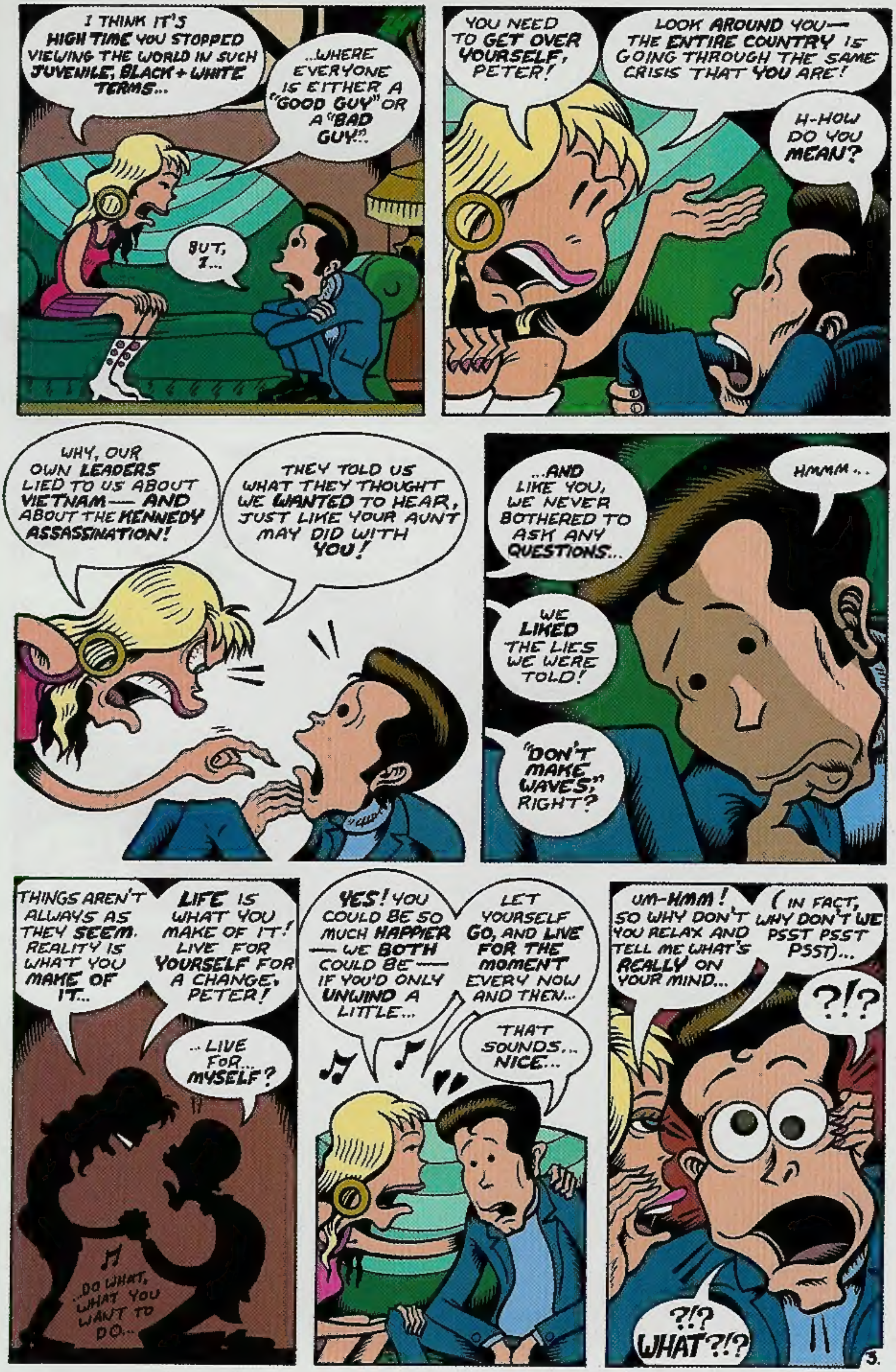
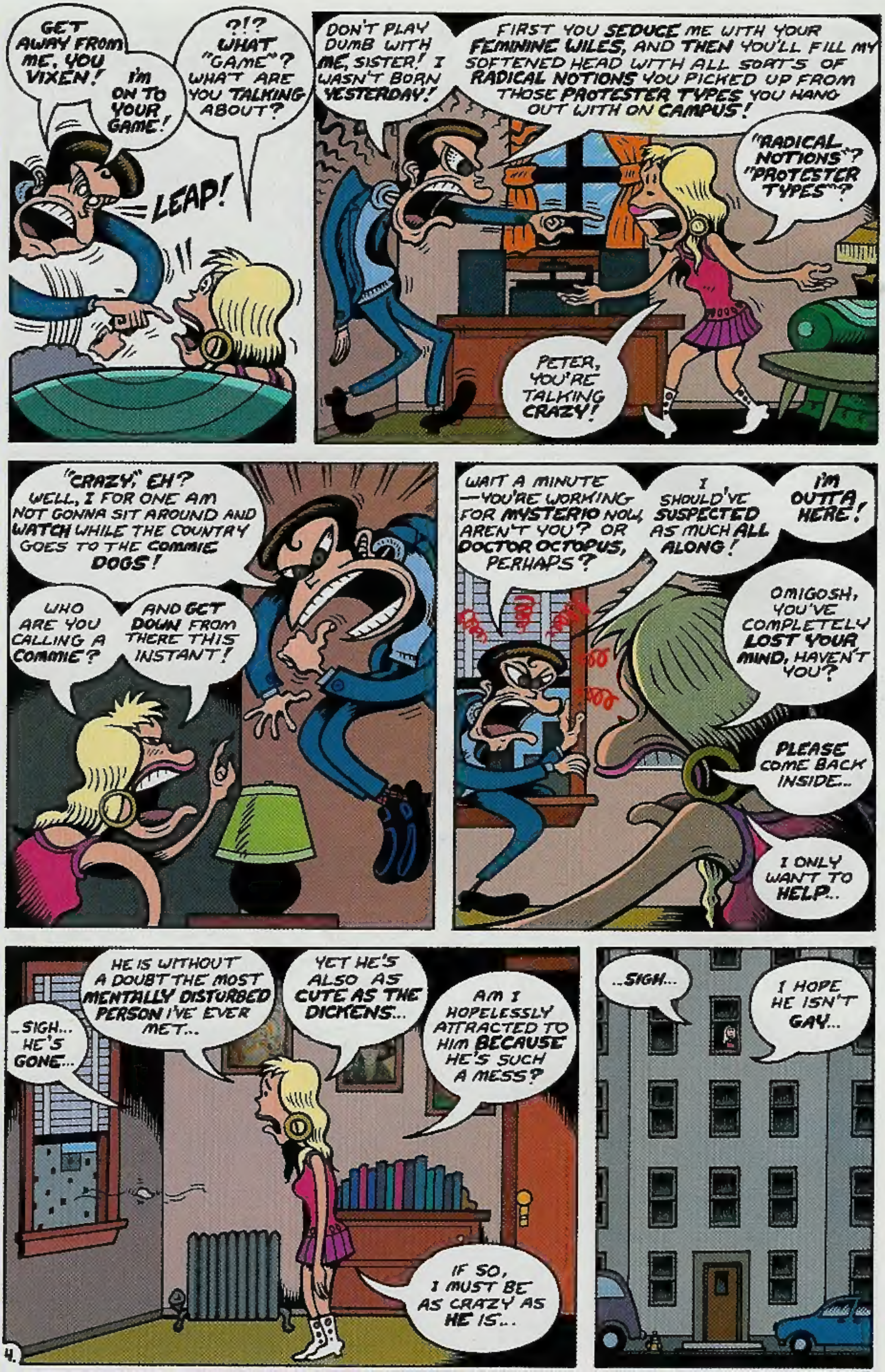

THE THING IS I WAS TOLD HE DIED FENDING OFF A BURGLAR, ONLY I RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT IT WASN'T A BURGLAR AT ALL!
IT TURNS OUT MY UNCLE WAS A CHRONIC GAMBLER, AND THE MAN THAT KILLED HIM WAS SENT TO COLLECT ON A RATHER SUBSTANTIAL DEBT...
OH DEAR...
ONLY MY UNCLE HAD NO INTENTION OF PAYING THAT DEBT, SO HE PULLED A GUN ON HIM...
UNFORTUNATELY, THE "INTRUDER" GOT HIS SHOT OFF FIRST...
OH, PETER! HOW AWFUL!
IN FACT, MY UNCLE WAS INVOLVED IN ALL SORTS OF SHADY DEALINGS. HE LED A DOUBLE LIFE!
AND AUNT MAY KNEW ALL ALONG, TOO. SHE JUST DIDN'T WANT ME TO KNOW, SO SHE CREATED THIS IMAGE OF HIM THAT NEVER EXISTED...
YOU WERE YOUNG, PETER. SHE DID WHAT SHE THOUGHT WAS BEST...
SHE LIED TO ME!
EVERYTHING I BELIEVED IN WAS BASED ON A LIE!
MY ENTIRE LIFE IS ONE BIG FAT LIE!
PETER, STOP!
YOU'RE HURTING ME!
CLUTCH!
OH GOD, I'M SO SORRY...
I'M A MONSTER! =SOB!=
YEEOWCH! WHAT A GRIP HE HAS!
MY LIFE IS A JOKE...
I MIGHT AS WELL JUST KILL MYSELF...
=SOB=
OH, PLEASE! YOU'RE BEING WAY TOO HARD ON YOURSELF!
IF YOU ASK ME, THIS IS A BLESSING IN DISGUISE...
=SNIFF= H-HOW DO YOU FIGURE?



I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME YOU STOPPED VIEWING THE WORLD IN SUCH JUVENILE, BLACK + WHITE TERMS...
...WHERE EVERYONE IS EITHER A "GOOD GUY" OR A "BAD GUY"!
BUT, I...
YOU NEED TO GET OVER YOURSELF, PETER!
LOOK AROUND YOU— THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS GOING THROUGH THE SAME CRISIS THAT YOU ARE!
H-HOW DO YOU MEAN?
WHY, OUR OWN LEADERS LIED TO US ABOUT VIETNAM— AND ABOUT THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION!
THEY TOLD US WHAT THEY THOUGHT WE WANTED TO HEAR, JUST LIKE YOUR AUNT MAY DID WITH YOU!
...AND LIKE YOU, WE NEVER BOTHERED TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS...
HMMM...
WE LIKED THE LIES WE WERE TOLD!
"DON'T MAKE WAVES," RIGHT?
THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM. REALITY IS WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT...
LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT! LIVE FOR YOURSELF FOR A CHANGE, PETER!
...LIVE FOR... MYSELF?
...DO WHAT, WHAT YOU WANT TO DO...
YES! YOU COULD BE SO MUCH HAPPIER —WE BOTH COULD BE— IF YOU'D ONLY UNWIND A LITTLE...
LET YOURSELF GO, AND LIVE FOR THE MOMENT EVERY NOW AND THEN...
THAT SOUNDS... NICE...
UM-HMM! SO WHY DON'T YOU RELAX AND TELL ME WHAT'S REALLY ON YOUR MIND...
(IN FACT, WHY DON'T WE PSST PSST PSST)...
?!?
?!? WHAT?!?


GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU VIXEN!
I'M ON TO YOUR GAME!
?!? WHAT "GAME"? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LEAP!
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME, SISTER! I WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY!
FIRST YOU SEDUCE ME WITH YOUR FEMININE WILES, AND THEN YOU'LL FILL MY SOFTENED HEAD WITH ALL SORTS OF RADICAL NOTIONS YOU PICKED UP FROM THOSE PROTESTER TYPES YOU HANG OUT WITH ON CAMPUS!
"RADICAL NOTIONS"? "PROTESTER TYPES"?
PETER, YOU'RE TALKING CRAZY!
"CRAZY," EH? WELL, I FOR ONE AM NOT GONNA SIT AROUND AND WATCH WHILE THE COUNTRY GOES TO THE COMMIE DOGS!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A COMMIE?
AND GET DOWN FROM THERE THIS INSTANT!
WAIT A MINUTE —YOU'RE WORKING FOR MYSTERIO NOW, AREN'T YOU? OR DOCTOR OCTOPUS, PERHAPS?
I SHOULD'VE SUSPECTED AS MUCH ALL ALONG!
I'M OUTTA HERE!
OMIGOSH, YOU'VE COMPLETELY LOST YOUR MIND, HAVEN'T YOU?
PLEASE COME BACK INSIDE..
I ONLY WANT TO HELP..
..SIGH... HE'S GONE...
HE IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE MOST MENTALLY DISTURBED PERSON I'VE EVER MET...
YET HE'S ALSO AS CUTE AS THE DICKENS...
AM I HOPELESSLY ATTRACTED TO HIM BECAUSE HE'S SUCH A MESS?
IF SO, I MUST BE AS CRAZY AS HE IS..
..SIGH..
I HOPE HE ISN'T GAY...

THE AMAZINGLY CONVOLUTED, EMOTIONALLY OVERWROUGHT ADVENTURES OF...
the MEGALOMANIACAL SPIDER-MAN
THE NEXT DAY...
ENJOY THIS DAY, SPIDER-MAN, FOR IT WILL BE YOUR LAST!
IZZAT SO? WELL, AT LEAST I GET TO SPEND IT WITH YOU, MYSTERIO OLD BOY!
UGH! WHY DO I KEEP SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT?
I HOPE NO ONE WAS LISTENING...
WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: PETER BAGGE
EDITED BY: AXEL ALONSO
COLORED BY: LAURA ALLRED
ASST. ED: JOHN MIESEGAES
ED. IN CHIEF: JOE QUESADA
PRESIDENT: BILL JEMAS
SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY: STAN LEE + STEVE DITKO
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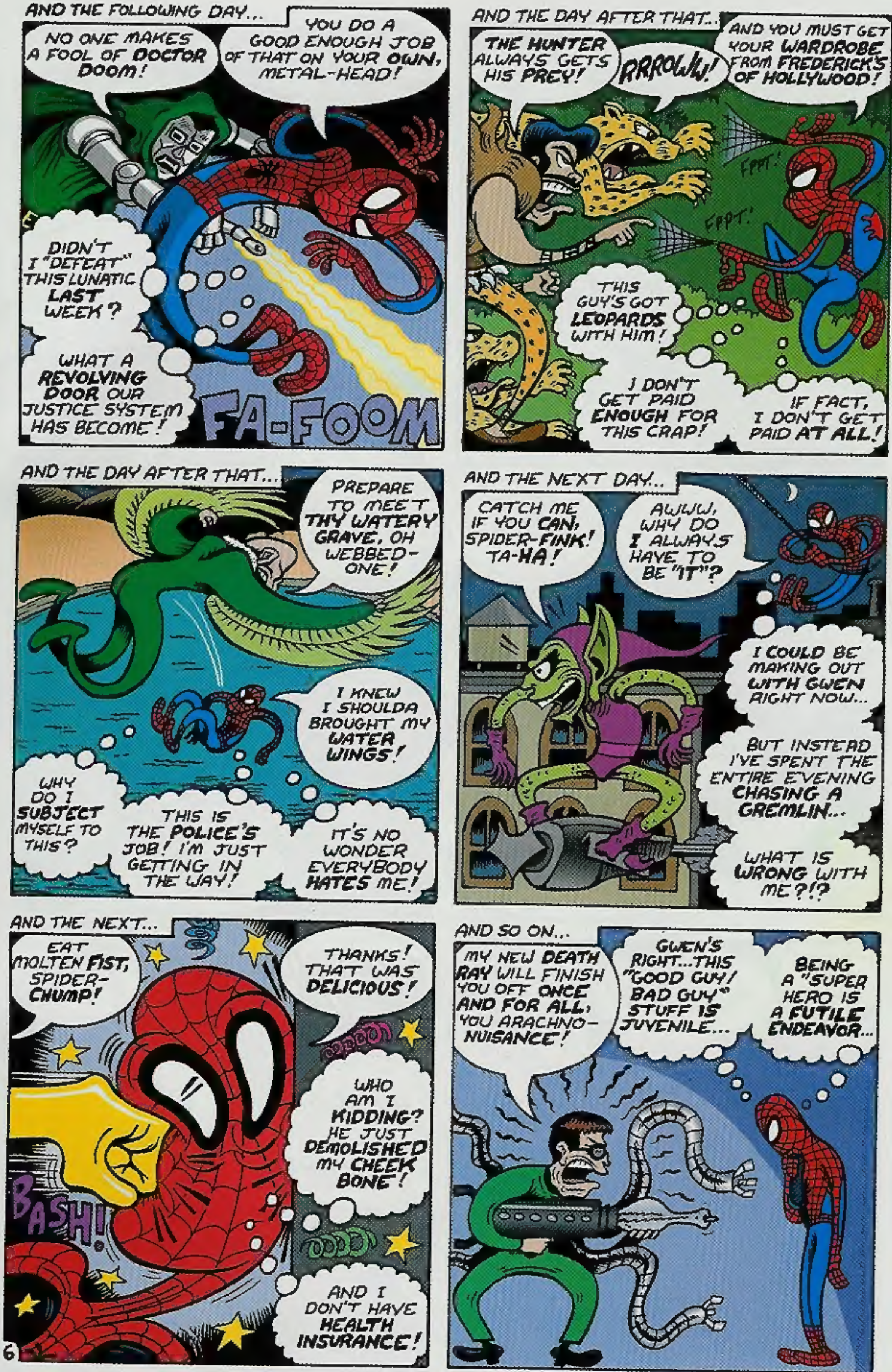
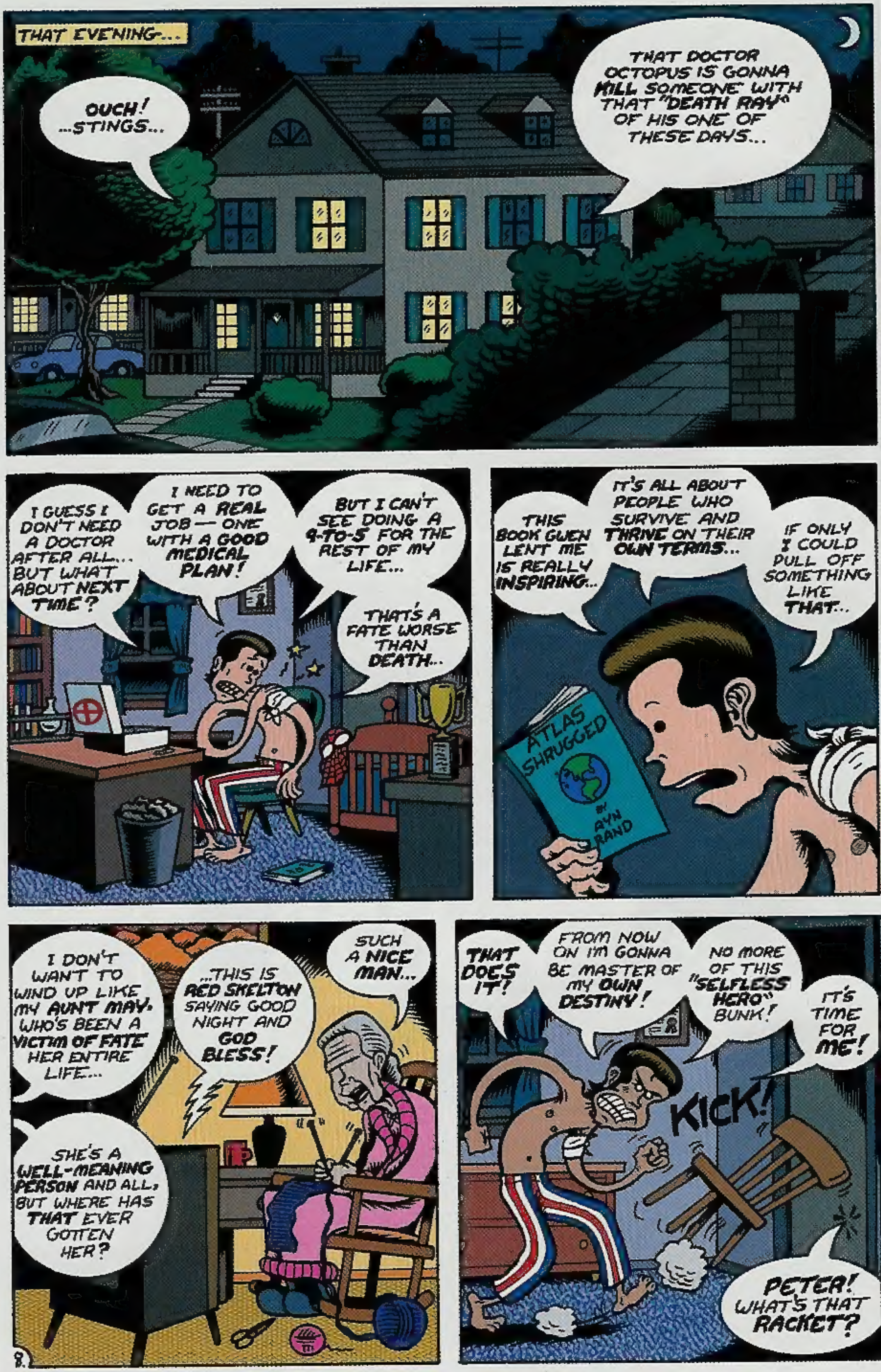

AND THE FOLLOWING DAY...
NO ONE MAKES A FOOL OF DOCTOR DOOM!
YOU DO A GOOD ENOUGH JOB OF THAT ON YOUR OWN, METAL-HEAD!
DIDN'T I "DEFEAT" THIS LUNATIC LAST WEEK?
WHAT A REVOLVING DOOR OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM HAS BECOME!
FA-FOOM
AND THE DAY AFTER THAT...
THE HUNTER ALWAYS GETS HIS PREY!
RRROWW!
AND YOU MUST GET YOUR WARDROBE FROM FREDERICK'S OF HOLLYWOOD!
FPPT!
FPPT!
THIS GUY'S GOT LEOPARDS WITH HIM!
I DON'T GET PAID ENOUGH FOR THIS CRAP!
IF FACT, I DON'T GET PAID AT ALL!
AND THE DAY AFTER THAT...
PREPARE TO MEET THY WATERY GRAVE, OH WEBBED-ONE!
I KNEW I SHOULDA BROUGHT MY WATER WINGS!
WHY DO I SUBJECT MYSELF TO THIS?
THIS IS THE POLICE'S JOB! I'M JUST GETTING IN THE WAY!
IT'S NO WONDER EVERYBODY HATES ME!
AND THE NEXT DAY...
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, SPIDER-FINK! TA-HA!
AWWW, WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO BE "IT"?
I COULD BE MAKING OUT WITH GWEN RIGHT NOW...
BUT INSTEAD I'VE SPENT THE ENTIRE EVENING CHASING A GREMLIN...
WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?!?
AND THE NEXT...
EAT MOLTEN FIST, SPIDER-CHUMP!
THANKS! THAT WAS DELICIOUS!
WHO AM I KIDDING? HE JUST DEMOLISHED MY CHEEK BONE!
AND I DON'T HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE!
BASH!
AND SO ON...
MY NEW DEATH RAY WILL FINISH YOU OFF ONCE AND FOR ALL, YOU ARACHNO-NUISANCE!
GWEN'S RIGHT...THIS "GOOD GUY/BAD GUY" STUFF IS JUVENILE...
BEING A "SUPER HERO IS A FUTILE ENDEAVOR...

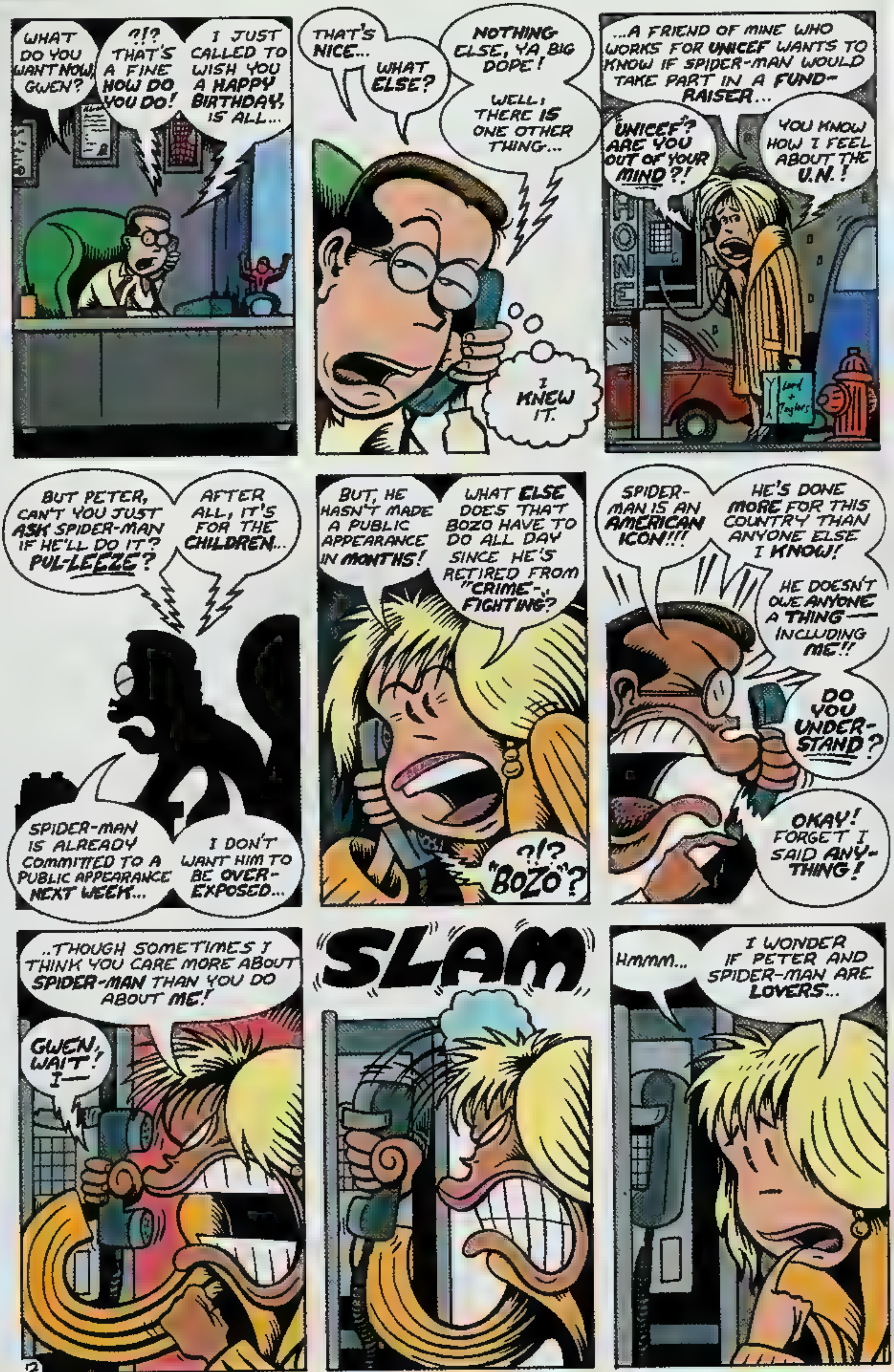
I GET NOTHING OUT OF THIS, OTHER THAN INSULTS AND INJURY...
IF I HAD HALF A BRAIN I'D JUST BE LOOKING AFTER NUMBER ONE...
WHAT, NO SNAPPY COME-BACK?
OH WELL, NO MATTER...
BZZZZZAT
EEE-YOW!
NYAH-HA HA!
TAKE THAT, SPIDER-MAN!
YOU IDIOT! THAT HURT!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO? KILL ME?
YOU'RE THE IDIOT! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DUCK!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SO-CALLED "SPIDER-SENSE"?
RIGHT NOW MY COMMON SENSE IS TELLING ME TO SEE A DOCTOR...
A REAL ONE, THAT IS!
AFTER THAT I'M GONNA START A NEW HOBBY, LIKE STAMP COLLECTING!
W-W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
Y-YOU'LL STILL BE BACK TOMORROW, WON'T YOU?
W-WHAT ABOUT US?
THERE IS NO "US"!
GO FIND YOURSELF A NEW PLAYMATE!
OR BETTER YET, GET YOURSELF A GIRL-FRIEND...
GET A LIFE!
NO! THIS CAN'T BE!
YOU CAN'T QUIT ON ME NOW!
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME!
WHAAAH! NOBODY LOVES ME!
I WISH I WAS DEAD!
WHAAAH!
GOOD GRIEF!
THIS IS ALL SO... UN-HEALTHY!


THAT EVENING-...
OUCH! ...STINGS...
THAT DOCTOR OCTOPUS IS GONNA KILL SOMEONE WITH THAT "DEATH RAY" OF HIS ONE OF THESE DAYS...
I GUESS I DON'T NEED A DOCTOR AFTER ALL... BUT WHAT ABOUT NEXT TIME?
I NEED TO GET A REAL JOB — ONE WITH A GOOD MEDICAL PLAN!
BUT I CAN'T SEE DOING A 9-TO-5 FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...
THAT'S A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH...
THIS BOOK GWEN LENT ME IS REALLY INSPIRING...
IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE WHO SURVIVE AND THRIVE ON THEIR OWN TERMS...
IF ONLY I COULD PULL OFF SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
ATLAS SHRUGGED BY AYN RAND
I DON'T WANT TO WIND UP LIKE MY AUNT MAY, WHO'S BEEN A VICTIM OF FATE HER ENTIRE LIFE...
SHE'S A WELL-MEANING PERSON AND ALL, BUT WHERE HAS THAT EVER GOTTEN HER?
...THIS IS RED SKELTON SAYING GOOD NIGHT AND GOD BLESS!
SUCH A NICE MAN...
THAT DOES IT!
FROM NOW ON I'M GONNA BE MASTER OF MY OWN DESTINY!
NO MORE OF THIS "SELFLESS HERO" BUNK!
IT'S TIME FOR ME!
KICK!
PETER! WHAT'S THAT RACKET?

MIDTOWN MANHATTAN, 1984...
SPIDER-MAN, INC.
YOUR AUNT MAY IS ON LINE ONE, MR. PARKER...
AGAIN?!?
WHAT DOES THAT WRINKLED OLD PRUNE WANT FROM ME NOW?
I THOUGHT SHE'D BE OUT OF MY HAIR FOR GOOD ONCE I SET HER UP IN THAT FLORIDA CONDO...
IN FACT, I THOUGHT SHE'D BE DEAD BY NOW!
SHE ONLY WANTS TO WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PETER...
TELL HER I'LL CALL HER BACK LATER...
THAT'S MR. PARKER TO YOU, BETTY— OR SHOULD I CALL YOU "MS. BRANT"?
THAT'S WHAT YOU FEMINIST TYPES WANT TO BE CALLED NOW, RIGHT? "MZZZZ"?
AND PLEASE REMIND MY AUNT BIDDY TO NEVER CALL ME AT WORK AGAIN!
Y-YES, MR. PARKER...
ACTUALLY, "MR. PARKER SIR" HAS A BETTER RING TO IT...
IT ADDS AN AIR OF DIGNITY AND RESPECT THAT MY POSITION DESERVES...
OR BETTER YET, HOW ABOUT "YOUR EXCELLENCY"? HA-HA!
I'M SORRY, MAY...
I KNOW, HE'S BEEN IMPOSSIBLE LATELY...
<SNIFF!>
GET JAMESON IN HERE, MZZZ BRANT...
I WANT TO HEAR HOW MY NEW TITLE SOUNDS COMING OUT OF THAT MEALY MOUTH OF HIS...
YES, SIR...
OH GOD, I WISH HE'D LEAVE THAT POOR MAN ALONE...

YOU RANG, SIR?
JAMESON! YOU'RE JUST THE MAN I WANT TO SEE!
GET YER SORRY ASS IN HERE!
TAP! TAP!
BUT PUT OUT THAT CIGAR FIRST...
AND ROLL DOWN THOSE SLEEVES!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, SIR...
I GOT HERE AS FAST AS MY TIRED OLD LEGS COULD CARRY ME...
SPARE ME THE SELF-PITY, JAMESON...
I WANT YOU TO INFORM YOUR ENTIRE DEPARTMENT THAT FROM NOW ON THEY'RE TO ADDRESS THE C.E.O. OF THIS CORPORATION AS "YOUR EXCELLENCY."
DAB DAB
?!? EXCUSE ME, SIR? I DON'T...
NO, NOT "SIR." IT'S "YOUR EXCELLENCY."
LET ME HEAR YOU SAY IT.
Y-YOUR EXCELLENCY...
GOD, HOW HUMILIATING!
HMMM... TRY IT AGAIN, ONLY LOUDER...
AND BOW THIS TIME!
YOUR EXCELLENCY!...
HAW! HAW! HAW! EXCELLENT!
NOW KISS MY FEET!
AGAIN? M-MUST I? MY BACK HAS BEEN ACTING UP LATELY, AND—
NO EXCUSES, TRIPLE J! YOU KNOW THE DRILL. NOW GET ON YOUR KNEES!
...DO YOU BELIEVE IN KARMA, JAMESON? BECAUSE I DIDN'T —UNTIL NOW, THAT IS...
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE TREATED LIKE DIRT FOR A CHANGE, HMMMM?
THE IRONY IS JUST TOO DELICIOUS...
...SLOBBER SMEK...
...THAT'S IT.. GET IT NICE 'N' WET...
UGH! DISGUSTING!
SMOOCH! SLORP!

WILL THAT BE ALL, SIR? —I MEAN, YOUR EX—
HELL NO! I HAVE A BONE TO PICK WITH YOU, J.J...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
I-IT'S AN EDITORIAL FROM YESTERDAY'S BUGLE...
I KNOW THAT, NUMBSKULL!
JUST AS YOU MUST KNOW HOW FOND I AM OF PRESIDENT REAGAN.
BUGLE
REAGAN HAS MUCH TO ANSWER FOR
A-AS DOES THE BUGLE! WE BACK THE PRESIDENT 100%!
B-BUT WE'VE ALWAYS PROVIDED SPACE FOR OPPOSING POINTS OF VIEW—
NOT ANYMORE WE DON'T.
NOT WITH THE KIND OF MONEY THIS COMPANY IS DONATING TO HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN...
...AND ESPECIALLY WHEN HE'S A WEEK AWAY FROM PRESENTING SPIDER-MAN WITH THE MEDAL OF FREEDOM!
BUT, I—
YOUR FIANCÉE IS ON LINE TWO, SIR.
I'LL TAKE IT IN MY OFFICE, BETTY...
BUT WHAT, JAMESON?
I, UH...
I'LL TELL EVERYONE ABOUT OUR NEW EDITORIAL POLICY RIGHT AWAY, SIR...
—OOPS: I MEAN, YOUR EXCEL-LENCY!
WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS, EH?
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
HA! HA!
I'LL TEACH YOU, YOU ARROGANT LITTLE SO-'N'-SO!
BY THE WAY, BETTY, IF ANYONE EVER REFERS TO ME AS "YOUR EXCELLENCY" ACT LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT...
?
SLAM!
LET'S LET THEM ALL THINK JAMESON IS LOSING HIS MIND...
ER, YES, SIR...
WHATEVER YOU SAY, YOU BIG BASTARD!
SOB!



WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW, GWEN?
?!? THAT'S A FINE HOW DO YOU DO!
I JUST CALLED TO WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY, IS ALL...
THAT'S NICE...
WHAT ELSE?
NOTHING ELSE, YA BIG DOPE!
WELL, THERE IS ONE OTHER THING...
I KNEW IT.
...A FRIEND OF MINE WHO WORKS FOR UNICEF WANTS TO KNOW IF SPIDER-MAN WOULD TAKE PART IN A FUND-RAISER...
UNICEF?! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THE U.N.!
BUT PETER, CAN'T YOU JUST ASK SPIDER-MAN IF HE'LL DO IT? PUL-LEEZE?
AFTER ALL, IT'S FOR THE CHILDREN...
SPIDER-MAN IS ALREADY COMMITTED TO A PUBLIC APPEARANCE NEXT WEEK...
I DON'T WANT HIM TO BE OVER-EXPOSED...
BUT, HE HASN'T MADE A PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN MONTHS!
WHAT ELSE DOES THAT BOZO HAVE TO DO ALL DAY SINCE HE'S RETIRED FROM "CRIME-FIGHTING"?
?!? "BOZO"?
SPIDER-MAN IS AN AMERICAN ICON!!!
HE'S DONE MORE FOR THIS COUNTRY THAN ANYONE ELSE I KNOW!
HE DOESN'T OWE ANYONE A THING — INCLUDING ME!!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
OKAY! FORGET I SAID ANY-THING!
..THOUGH SOMETIMES I THINK YOU CARE MORE ABOUT SPIDER-MAN THAN YOU DO ABOUT ME!
GWEN, WAIT! I—
SLAM
HMMM...
I WONDER IF PETER AND SPIDER-MAN ARE LOVERS...
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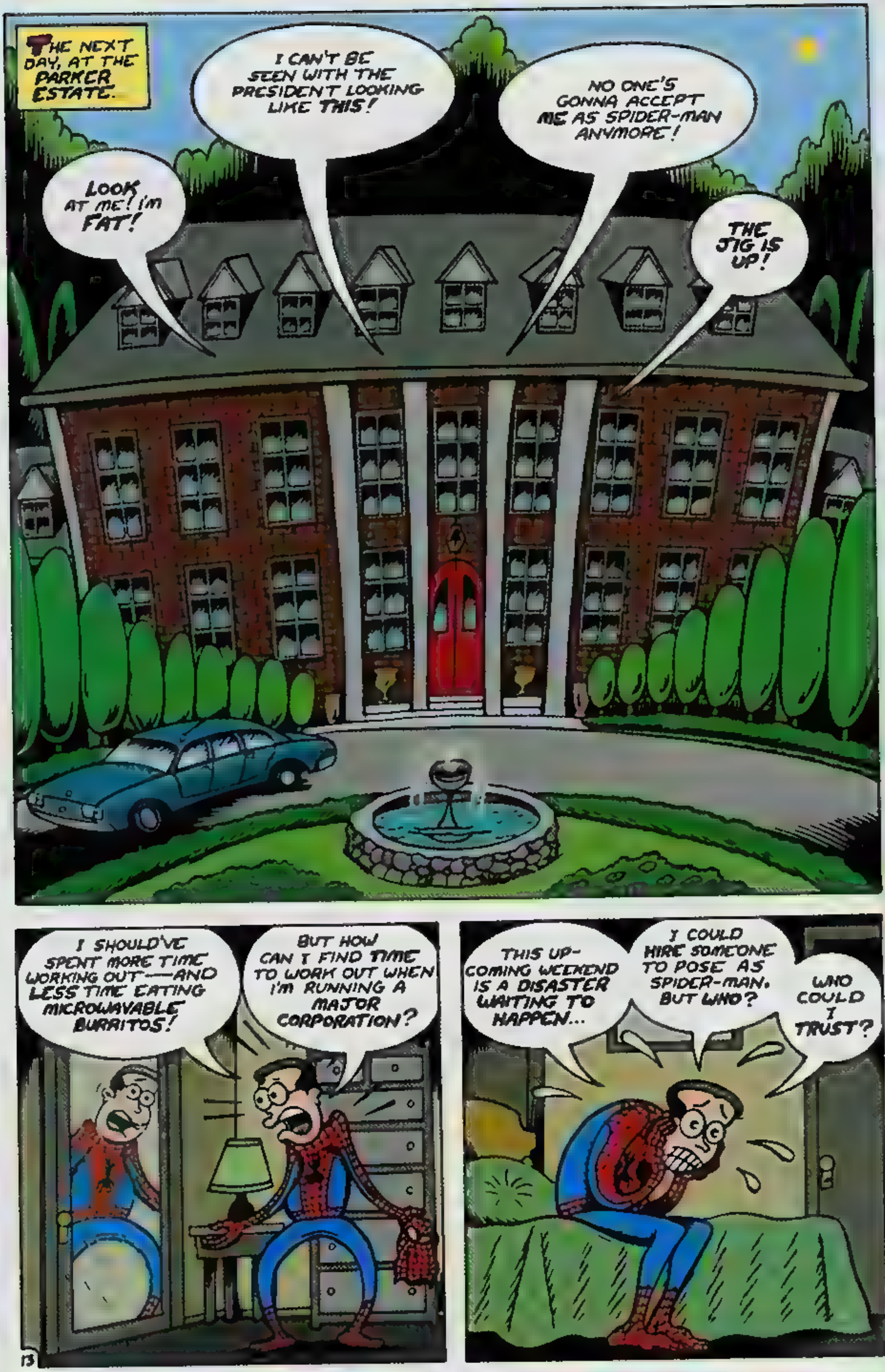
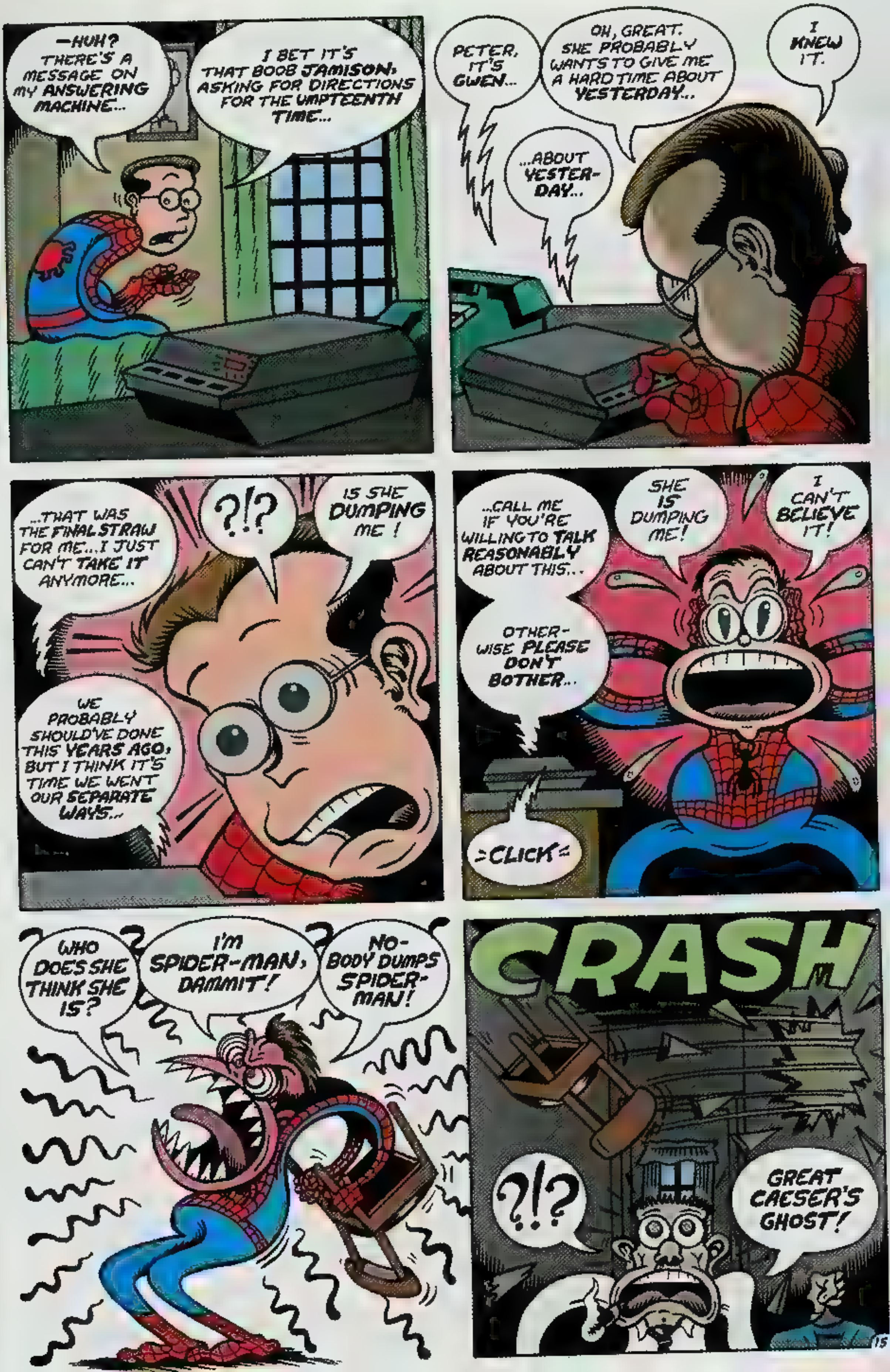

THE NEXT DAY, AT THE PARKER ESTATE.
LOOK AT ME! I'M FAT!
I CAN'T BE SEEN WITH THE PRESIDENT LOOKING LIKE THIS!
NO ONE'S GONNA ACCEPT ME AS SPIDER-MAN ANYMORE!
THE JIG IS UP!
I SHOULD'VE SPENT MORE TIME WORKING OUT—AND LESS TIME EATING MICROWAVABLE BURRITOS!
BUT HOW CAN I FIND TIME TO WORK OUT WHEN I'M RUNNING A MAJOR CORPORATION?
THIS UP-COMING WEEKEND IS A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN...
I COULD HIRE SOMEONE TO POSE AS SPIDER-MAN. BUT WHO?
WHO COULD I TRUST?

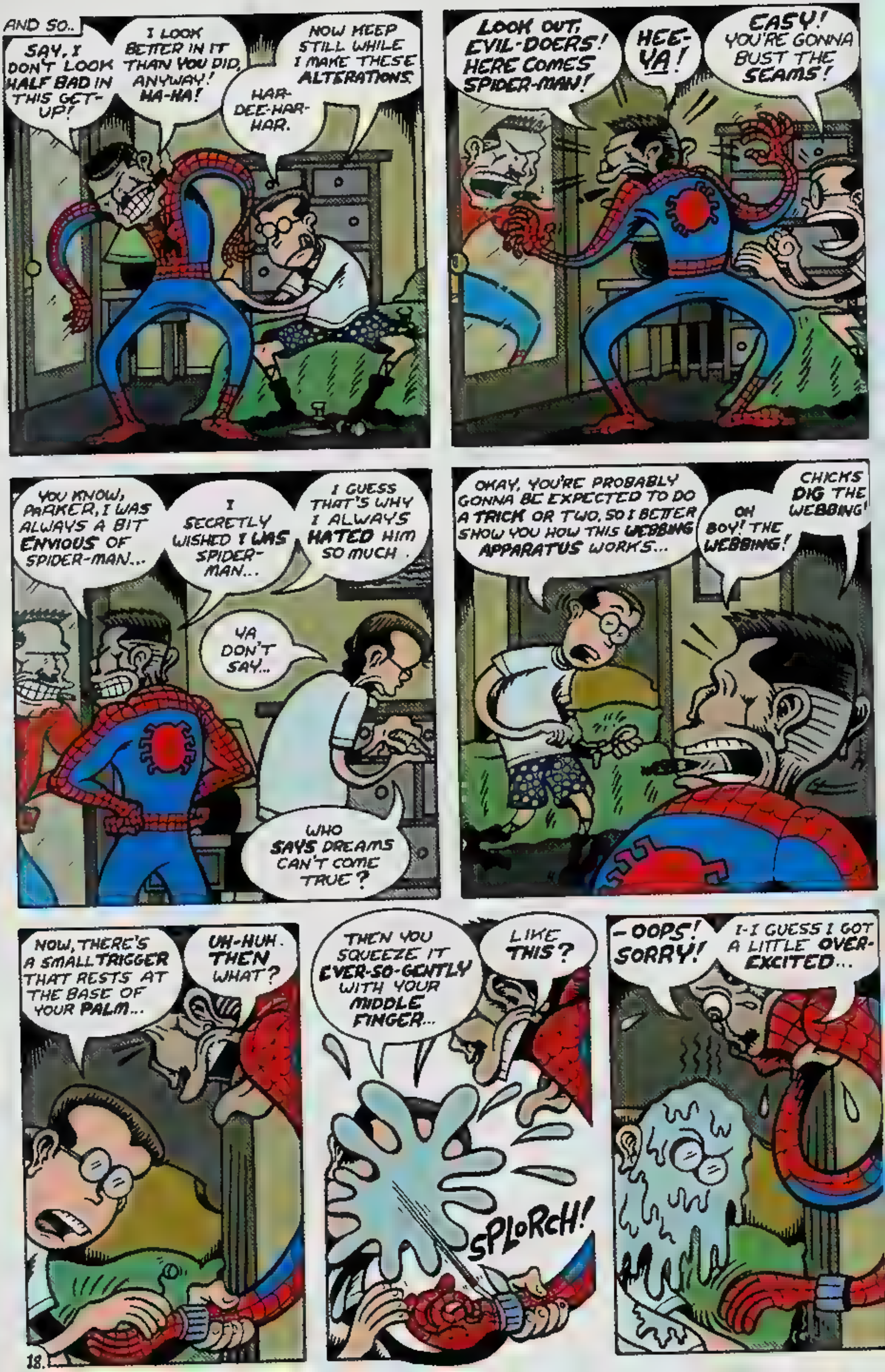
MEANWHILE
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT PUNK PARKER IS MAKING ME HAND-DELIVER HIS DRY-CLEANING!
HE COULD HAVE AN OFFICE BOY RUN HIS ERRANDS FOR HIM, BUT NOOOOOO..
"OFFICE BOYS HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO," HE SAYS..
HOW MANY MORE INDIGNITIES CAN HE HEAP ON ME?
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO HIM TO DESERVE THIS KIND OF TREATMENT?
OKAY, SO I WAS NEVER A NICE GUY, BUT I WASN'T THAT BAD, EITHER!
PARKER'S BECOME A BIGGER PAIN IN MY REAR THAN SPIDER-MAN EVER WAS!
SERVES ME RIGHT FOR BEING SO GREEDY..
I WAS DOING FINE, BUT I STOOD A CHANCE OF MAKING EVEN MORE MONEY BY "GOING PUBLIC".
THUS LEAVING THE BUGLE VULNERABLE TO A HOSTILE TAKEOVER BY SPIDER-MAN INC. AND IT'S HOT-SHOT C.E.O., PETER PARKER!
IF I HAD ANY BALLS I'D QUIT, BUT WITH THE COMPANY DOING AS WELL AS IT IS, I DON'T WANT TO CASH IN MY STOCK OPTIONS JUST YET...
BZZT
PLUS YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN PARKER MIGHT SLIP UP...
AND I WANT TO BE THERE WHEN HE DOES!
ARRGH! NO ONE'S ANSWERING..
I SHOULD JUST DUMP HIS RAGS RIGHT HERE ON THE LAWN, BUT I'D CATCH HELL IF I DID...
STILL, I AIN'T GOT ALL DAY...
C'MON, PARKER! OPEN UP!
BZZT! BZZT!
HMMM. . MAYBE I SHOULD TRY THE SERVANT'S ENTRANCE...



—HUH? THERE'S A MESSAGE ON MY ANSWERING MACHINE...
I BET IT'S THAT BOOB JAMISON, ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME...
PETER, IT'S GWEN...
OH, GREAT. SHE PROBABLY WANTS TO GIVE ME A HARD TIME ABOUT YESTERDAY...
I KNEW IT.
...ABOUT YESTER-DAY...
...THAT WAS THE FINAL STRAW FOR ME... I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...
?!?
IS SHE DUMPING ME!
WE PROBABLY SHOULD'VE DONE THIS YEARS AGO, BUT I THINK IT'S TIME WE WENT OUR SEPARATE WAYS...
...CALL ME IF YOU'RE WILLING TO TALK REASONABLY ABOUT THIS...
SHE IS DUMPING ME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
OTHER-WISE PLEASE DON'T BOTHER...
=CLICK=
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
I'M SPIDER-MAN, DAMMIT!
NO-BODY DUMPS SPIDER-MAN!
CRASH
?!?
GREAT CAESER'S GHOST!

AH-HA!
SO YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN, HUH?
I SHOULD'VE FIGURED AS MUCH ALL ALONG!
?!?
JAMESON!
I'LL TEACH YOU TO SPY ON ME, YOU—
WHAT ARE YA GONNA DO, PARKER? SMASH ME TO A SPIDER-PULP?
YANK
GO AHEAD, PUT ME OUT OF MY MISERY!
MY ONLY REGRET WILL BE NOT SEEING HOW YOU'LL EXPLAIN MY DEATH TO THE POLICE!
!?!
HA HA!
THAT'S RIGHT, PARKER —OR SHOULD I SAY "YOUR EXCELLEN-CY"...
LOOKS LIKE I'M THE ONE HOLDING THE CARDS NOW...
UNLESS YOUR STOCKHOLDERS WON'T CARE THAT SPIDER-MAN IS SOME OUT-OF-SHAPE PHONEY, THAT IS!
>GULP!<
...OH MY GOD...
DON'T WORRY, KIDDO, I WON'T SPILL THE BEANS...
I'VE GOT A STAKE IN THIS LITTLE "MYTH" OF YOURS AS WELL...
ONLY YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO DELIVERING MY DRY-CLEANING FROM NOW ON! HE-HEH!
SOME "SUPER HERO" YOU ARE!
SO YOU'RE THE REAL SPIDER-MAN, SO WHAT?
TO ME YOU WERE NOTHING BUT A PUNK, AND YOU'RE STILL A PUNK!
A PUNK AND A FRAUD!
YOU'RE RIGHT... I AM A FRAUD...
I QUIT.

HUH?
WHADAYA MEAN, YOU "QUIT"?
I MEAN I CAN'T GO ON WITH THIS CHARADE A MOMENT LONGER...
IT'S ABOUT TIME THE WORLD KNEW WHAT A BIG NOTHING I AM...
IN FACT, IT'LL BE A RELIEF...
NO!
YOU CAN'T QUIT! THE CORPORATION WILL CRUMBLE IF YOU DO!
WE'LL BE RUINED!
LOOK AT ME, JAMESON! I'M A MESS!
I CAN'T ACCEPT THE MEDAL OF FREEDOM LOOKING LIKE THIS!
LET'S FACE IT— I'M THROUGH AS SPIDER-MAN!
HMMM... I SEE YOUR POINT...
HECK, THAT'S NO PROBLEM! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR PLACE!
IT IS A PROBLEM, SINCE WE CAN'T RISK ANYONE KNOWING THAT THE GUY IN THE SPIDER-MAN SUIT ISN'T REALLY SPIDER-MAN!
AND WHOEVER WE HIRE IS SURE TO SPILL THE BEANS EVENTUALLY...
HMMM... TRUE...
IF ONLY THERE WAS SOMEBODY WE COULD TRUST TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT...
HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TO BE IN TOP SHAPE! JUST AS LONG AS HIS GUT ISN'T AS BIG AS MINE...
HEY! I KNOW THE PERFECT CANDI-DATE!
REALLY? WHO?
HEH, HEH...

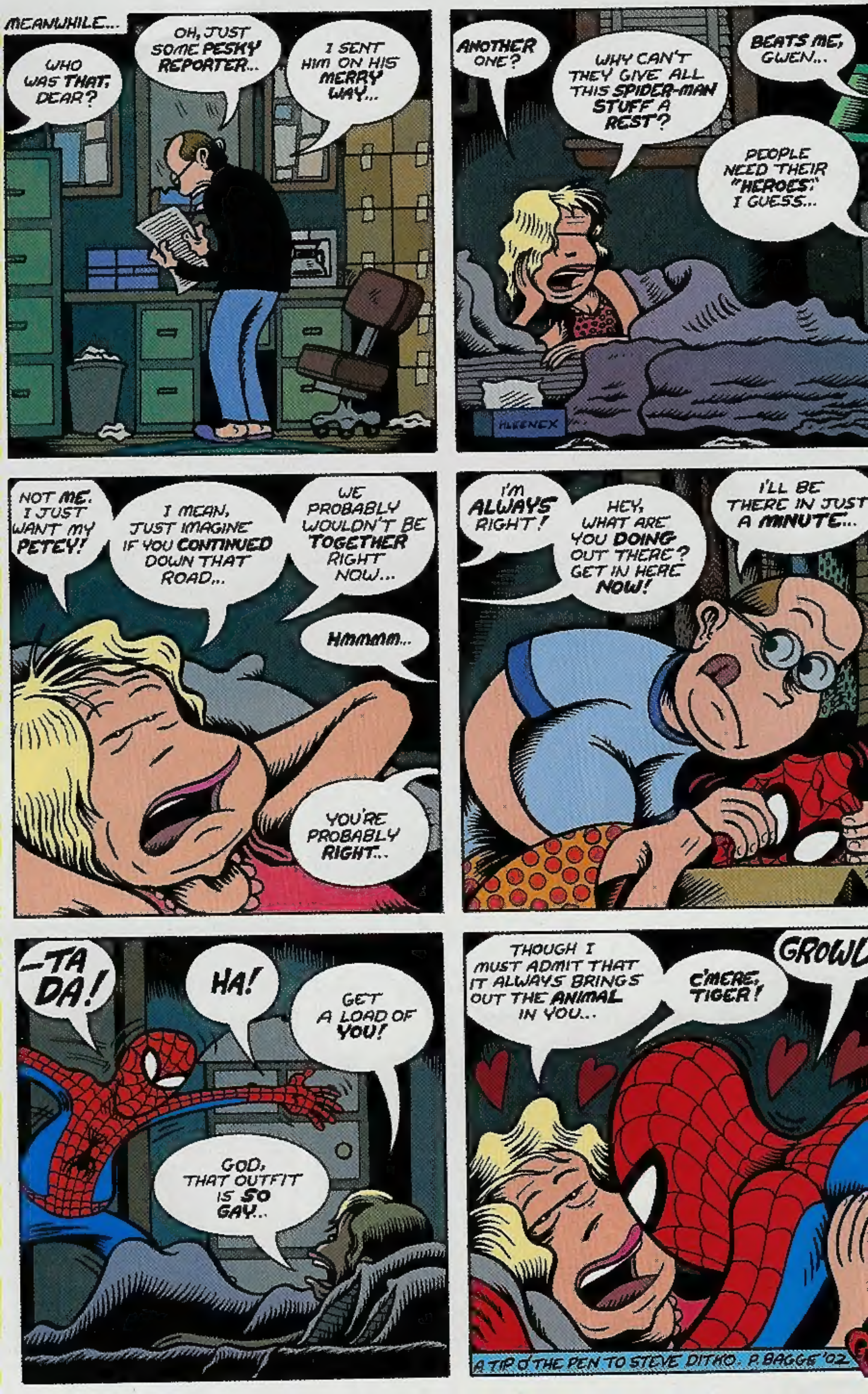

AND SO..
SAY, I DON'T LOOK HALF BAD IN THIS GET-UP!
I LOOK BETTER IN IT THAN YOU DID, ANYWAY! HA-HA!
NOW KEEP STILL WHILE I MAKE THESE ALTERATIONS.
HAR-DEE-HAR-HAR.
LOOK OUT, EVIL-DOERS! HERE COMES SPIDER-MAN!
HEE-YA!
EASY! YOU'RE GONNA BUST THE SEAMS!
YOU KNOW, PARKER, I WAS ALWAYS A BIT ENVIOUS OF SPIDER-MAN...
I SECRETLY WISHED I WAS SPIDER-MAN...
I GUESS THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS HATED HIM SO MUCH.
YA DON'T SAY...
WHO SAYS DREAMS CAN'T COME TRUE?
OKAY, YOU'RE PROBABLY GONNA BE EXPECTED TO DO A TRICK OR TWO, SO I BETTER SHOW YOU HOW THIS WEBBING APPARATUS WORKS...
OH BOY! THE WEBBING!
CHICKS DIG THE WEBBING!
NOW, THERE'S A SMALL TRIGGER THAT RESTS AT THE BASE OF YOUR PALM...
UH-HUH. THEN WHAT?
THEN YOU SQUEEZE IT EVER-SO-GENTLY WITH YOUR MIDDLE FINGER...
LIKE THIS?
SPLORCH!
-OOPS! SORRY!
I-I GUESS I GOT A LITTLE OVER-EXCITED...

LATER THAT WEEK...
...ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, I BESTOW UPON YOU OUR NATION'S HIGHEST HONOR...
WOW! THIS IS GREAT!
...IN RECOGNITION OF SACRIFICES ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY...
WHO WOULD HAVE EVER THOUGHT THAT I, J. JONAH JAMESON, WOULD BE RECEIVING A MEDAL FROM THE PRESIDENT?
AND SO WHAT IF I DON'T DESERVE IT? I'M LOVIN' EVERY MINUTE OF THIS JAZZ!
LOOK OUT, MR. PRESIDENT!
THERE'S A GUNMAN UP ON THE ROOF!
HOW DID HE GET UP THERE?
WHO KNOWS? WHO CARES?!
SOME-BODY DO SOME-THING!
THANK GOODNESS SPIDER-MAN IS HERE!
SAVE THE PRESIDENT, SPIDER-MAN!
!?!

SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS, NY, FIFTEEN YEARS LATER...
MAN, WHAT A DUMP!
THIS CAN'T BE THE RIGHT ADDRESS!
OH WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING...
...HI...
HI.
PEE-YEW!
HOW CAN PEOPLE LIVE LIKE THIS?
KNOCK KNOCK
YES?
OH! UH, HELLO!
I'M TREY ROBERTSON, A REPORTER FOR THEBUGLE.COM....
I'M LOOKING FOR A MR. PETER PARKER—
SLAM
SIGH. OH WELL...
THEY WARNED ME THAT I'D BE WASTING MY TIME...
WHAT, EXACTLY, IS "THE BUGLE DOT COM"?

AND SO...
...SEEING HOW THIS IS THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF SPIDER-MAN, MY EDITORS THOUGHT IT'D BE A GOOD TIME TO RUN A FEATURE...
RIGHT, JUST LIKE THEY DID ON THE FIFTH AND TENTH ANNIVERSARIES...
"THE HERO WHO DIED A HERO'S DEATH" ETC...
UGH! HASN'T THIS GUY EVER HEARD OF STARBUCKS?
HERE, HAVE A "WARM-UP"...
THANKS...
AND NOW YOU'RE GONNA ASK ME THE SAME OLD QUESTIONS, LIKE "DID YOU KNOW THAT JAMESON WAS SPIDER-MAN ALL ALONG?"
WELL, DIDN'T YOU AT LEAST SUSPECT--
NO.
AND DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO THE GUNMAN WAS? AND WHY HE'S NEVER BEEN FOUND?
FOR THE THOUSANDTH TIME, NO.
AND PUT THAT THING AWAY!
CLICK!
HUH? OH, SORRY...
I REFUSE TO INDULGE IN ANY WILD CONSPIRACY THEORIES...
YOU "JOURNALISTS" DO ENOUGH OF THAT ON YOUR OWN...
ASK ME SOMETHING NEW, WHY DONTCHA?
OKAY... UM...
HOW HAS SPIDER-MAN'S DEATH AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?
?!?
HUH. THAT IS A NEW ONE...
WELL, I USED TO BE THE CHAIRMAN OF A MAJOR CORPORATION. I WAS LOADED!
WHEREAS NOW... WELL, TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU...
BUT, RESIGNING FROM A MAJOR CORPORATE POSITION DOESN'T NECESSARILY LEAVE ONE DESTITUTE...
QUITE THE OPPOSITE, IN FACT...
RUMOR HAS IT THAT YOU DONATED MOST OF YOUR FORTUNE TO SOME FOUNDATION...

Y'KNOW, I USED TO BE YOUNG AND IDEALISTIC, JUST LIKE YOU...
UH, YOU'RE CHANGING THE SUBJECT...
UH-OH, THIS MUST BE "THE SPEECH" THEY WARNED ME ABOUT...
I USED TO BELIEVE IN HEROES AND VILLAINS, WAGING A WAR BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL...
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT—
—WAIT A MINUTE! YOU MEAN YOU NO LONGER BELIEVE IN GOOD AND EVIL?
OH, I DO; NOW MORE THAN EVER...
ONLY "EVIL" ISN'T ALWAYS CONVENIENTLY DRESSED IN A GREEN AND PURPLE COSTUME...
IN FACT, SOMETIMES "EVIL" LOOKS A LOT LIKE THE PERSON YOU SEE IN THE MIRROR...
RRRIGHT...
YOU KNOW THAT OLD SAYING: "THE ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS"?
I USED TO HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT MEANT...
BUT NOW I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS ALL TOO WELL...
I, UH...
HERE, TAKE THIS. IT EXPLAINS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT IN MUCH CLEARER DETAIL...
IT'S MY LIFE'S WORK; A "MANIFESTO" OF SORTS...
?
GOOD GRIEF!
AND READ UP ON SOME AYN RAND IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY...
HOPEFULLY YOU WON'T MISINTERPRET HER LIKE I ONCE DID...
?!?
BUT, WHAT ABOUT THE—
SLAM!
—INTERVIEW.
LATER...
...THIS DOESN'T MAKE A STITCH OF SENSE!
AND IT GOES ON FOREVER! THIS PARKER GUY IS A LUNATIC!
AAH, SCREW IT!
I'M NOT GONNA WASTE MY TIME READING THIS CRAP...
TOSS


MEANWHILE...
WHO WAS THAT, DEAR?
OH, JUST SOME PESKY REPORTER...
I SENT HIM ON HIS MERRY WAY...
ANOTHER ONE?
WHY CAN'T THEY GIVE ALL THIS SPIDER-MAN STUFF A REST?
BEATS ME, GWEN...
PEOPLE NEED THEIR "HEROES," I GUESS...
NOT ME. I JUST WANT MY PETEY!
I MEAN, JUST IMAGINE IF YOU CONTINUED DOWN THAT ROAD...
WE PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE TOGETHER RIGHT NOW...
HMMMM...
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT...
I'M ALWAYS RIGHT!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THERE? GET IN HERE NOW!
I'LL BE THERE IN JUST A MINUTE...
—TA DA!
HA!
GET A LOAD OF YOU!
GOD, THAT OUTFIT IS SO GAY...
THOUGH I MUST ADMIT THAT IT ALWAYS BRINGS OUT THE ANIMAL IN YOU...
C'MERE, TIGER!
GROWL
A TIP O' THE PEN TO STEVE DITKO. P. BAGGE '02